FY05 Army Experimental Test Pilot Board to Convene

The FY05 Army Experimental Test Pilot (XTP) Board will convene on or about Feb. 23, 2005, to select those aviators best qualified to participate in the Army Aviation Experimental Test Pilot Training Program. This board will review and select both commissioned and warrant officer files. Commissioned officers selected to attend training at the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) are automatically accessed into the Army Acquisition Corps, where they will serve the remainder of their careers.

XTP utilization assignments will be based on the Army's needs, with most initial tours served at the Aviation Technical Test Center at Fort Rucker, AL. USNTPS graduates will serve in XTP or organizational staff positions that directly influence the type, design and configuration of future Army aircraft.

The Army Human Resources Command must receive all applications for the FY05 Army XTP Board by Jan. 14, 2005. Applications for the board should be mailed to Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-OPF-Q (MAJ Donovan), 200 Stoval Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0411. Applications must include the following:

- Application memorandum signed by the officer and endorsed through the chain of command (O-6 level).
- Current Department of the Army photo and Officer Record Brief.
- Official transcripts of college credits.
- Most current *DA Form 759, Individual Flight Record and Flight Certificate-Army.*
- Endorsements by instructor/standardization pilots with specific comments on the applicant's flying ability.
- All medical waivers issued during military service.

Refer to *MILPER Message 04-196* for more specific requirements concerning the FY05 XTP Board. For additional information or to request sample application memorandum documentation, contact MAJ Sharlene Donovan at (703) 325-3129, DSN 221-3129 or e-mail **sharlene.donovan@hoffman.army.mil**. Warrant officers should contact CW4 Lee Tutin at (703) 325-5228, DSN 221-5228 or e-mail **lee.tutin@hoffman.army.mil**.

News Briefs

PM DSCS-T Completes Satellite Terminal Modernization in Bahrain

Stephen Larsen

With the removal of an AN/MSC-74 shelter that previously housed Digital Communication Satellite Subsystem (DCSS) equipment in May 2004, the Army's Product Manager Defense Satellite Communications Systems – Terminals (PM DSCS-T) successfully completed work under the AN/GSC-52 Modernization Program at Navy Satellite Communications Station (NAVSATCOMSTA), Bahrain.

According to Neil Fiske, project installation team leader for PM DSCS-T, which is part of the Project Manager Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (PM DCATS), two fixed-site 38-foot diameter AN/GSC-52 medium satellite terminals were provided to NAVSATCOMSTA, Bahrain. These terminals provide long-haul communications for NAVSATCOMSTA in supporting ground mobile forces, ships and strategic users in the Indian Ocean region, Southwest Asia, Europe — all the way to the East Coast of the United States.

With the removal of an AN/MSC-74 shelter that previously housed DCSS equipment, the Army's PM DSCS-T successfully completed work under the AN/GSC-52 Modernization Program at NAVSATCOMSTA, Bahrain. Upgrades will extend terminal life by 15 years. (U.S. Army photo.)

Fiske said that the removal of the shelter was the final step in the evolution of the long-haul communications capability that PM DSCS-T provided for NAVSATCOMSTA, Bahrain.

"Originally, we [PM DSCS-T] provided a vanized AN/GSC-52 and two AN/MSC-74 DCSS baseband shelters," he said. "In 1999, we added a fixed AN/GSC-52 and DCSS baseband suite to provide the capability to transmit over two satellites at the same time. Then, during the AN/GSC-52 modification in 2002, we converted the vanized AN/GSC-52 into the fixed configuration in place today."

Upgrade Program Extends Terminal Life, Reduces Support Costs

Under the Army's AN/GSC-52 Modernization Program, which started in 2000, PM DSCS-T has completed modernization of 30 of the 65 terminals — including upgrading radio frequency equipment, antenna motors and control, monitor and alarm systems. The upgrades will extend terminal life by 15 years, increase communication traffic capacity, reduce support costs and increase terminal reliability, maintainability and availability.

PM DCATS, located at Fort Monmouth, NJ, is part of the Fort Belvoir, VA-headquartered Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS).

Stephen Larsen is the Public Affairs Officer for PEO EIS at Fort Monmouth, NJ. He has more than 20 years' experience writing about Army systems. He holds a B.A. in American studies from the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York.

Uniform Covers 'Special' Field Request

Calling from a bomb crater in Afghanistan in the winter of 2002, the Special Forces Soldier had a pointed request for the Special Operations Forces (SOF) Special Projects Team at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, MA — send warm clothing.

Approximately 1 year later, special operators working in frigid battle zones got what they wanted in the Protective Combat Uniform (PCU), an interchangeable 15-piece, 7-level ensemble that can be worn in layers appropriate for the mission.

"He said, 'We're cold. You gotta do something to help,'" said Richard Elder, an equipment specialist on the Special Projects Team and Project Officer for the PCU, recounting the conversation that started the process. "It's exciting that in less than 12 months, the system was fielded into theater. That's never been done before."

The PCU will replace the existing Lightweight Environmental Protection (LEP) developed under the Special Operations Forces Equipment Advanced Requirements, a program to produce modular equipment systems that focus on mission tailoring, enhanced survivability and enhanced mobility while reducing weight, bulk and heat stress. The LEP consists of light and midweight underwear, medium stretch bib overalls, a pile jacket and a wind-resistant jacket along with the outer water-resistant shell of the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System parka and trousers. The other option for special operators was to purchase commercial items on their own.

The PCU takes cold-weather gear to the highest level. "The goal is to give special operators a system as good as or better than anything commercially available and to build a system that stays with the commercial market instead of falling behind so that you're not getting 6-year-old technology," Elder said.

In place of gathering and assessing clothing sold in stores, the Special Projects Team started from scratch. The team consulted with extreme alpinists and outdoor apparel companies, and followed recommendations from a Joint panel of special operators to introduce a product that the special operations community would approve.

"We wanted to make sure we didn't overlook anything. As a system, we wanted it competed nationally," Elder said. "This acquisition model has proven itself to be extremely efficient. To build something in real-time to meet users' needs is how it should be done all the time."

Wearing the PCU is a matter of mixing and matching the gray garments according to the anticipated conditions and activities of the user. Comfort levels range from minus 50 to 45 degrees F, and although there are seven levels of protection, clothing in each level is not progressively added or removed the colder or warmer the environment. "We actually get more out of fewer pieces by training the SOF operator how to pack and because of the clothing's efficiency," he said.

The key to staying warm is moisture management. The latest Polartec® fabrics by Malden Mills insulate and wick

moisture away from the skin, while outer garments made with silicone-encapsulated fibers by Nextec Applications Inc. allow sweat to escape while being highly water and wind resistant. The idea is to remove moisture faster than it can be produced. The product also breaks new ground for military protective clothing with antimicrobial fibers, a stretch shell and a design that functions as a complete system through its seaming, grading and fabrics.

Army Rangers, Marine Force Reconnaissance, Army Special Forces and Navy SEALs (Sea, Air, Land) members successfully evaluated the uniforms in Alaska in August 2002. By the time the uniform officially fields in 2006, the product will have been upgraded several times with another shell system and an alternate vest as part of a catalog of components to further adjust to the specific mission. Until they are fully fielded, the uniforms are being given to those who are involved in the design evolution via their feedback from the battlefield.

"Soldiers like it. They're taking uniforms as soon as they can get them," Elder said. "The uniforms are exactly what they were looking for. They're even wearing them outside of the designed profile."

Protective Combat Uniform Levels

- Level 1. A durable, silkweight Polartec Power Dry® fabric worn next to the skin wicks away moisture and dries fast. It consists of a crew-neck T-shirt and boxer shorts. It is also available in a long-sleeve top with invisible zipper and pants built for comfort and minimal weight.

- Level 2. A long-sleeve shirt and pants made from Polartec Power Dry fabric are worn next to the skin for extra warmth in extreme conditions. Moisture is quickly wicked from skin and dries fast. An inserted side panel of Polartec X-Static fabric enhances fit and flexibility. The shirt has a front 15-inch zip for extra venting and a soft lining around the collar. Comfort features include an articulated side seam on the pants to minimize chafe on the kneecap.

- Level 3. An insulative midlayer jacket made from Polartec Thermal Pro® fabric is water-repellent yet breathable. It is worn as an outer jacket in mild temperatures or as a heavy insulative layer in extreme cold. Seamless shoulders minimize chafe and are lined for extra warmth and padding for heavy pack straps.

- Level 4. The soft windshirt is made from an encapsulated microfiber that repels water but also breathes for various conditions. It's designed to be paired with a next-to-skin layer for intense activity in cooler temperatures or with the Level 5 soft shell as a midlayer. It stuffs into its own pocket for easy packing.

- Level 5. The key to the entire system, this soft shell fabric jacket and pants are made with fibers encapsulated with silicone that are highly stretchable, windproof, water-repellent and breathable. They are paired with the Level 1 or 2 next-to-skin layers and are ready for any cold-weather aerobic activity.

- Level 6. A lightweight waterproof and coated nylon hard shell is slightly oversized to fit easily and quickly over gear. The jacket features water-resistant zippers and armpit zips for maximum ventilation, pocket openings to quickly access inside layers and a hood that incorporates a stiff brim. The pants, which borrow their design from Level 5, also provide waterproof protection.

- Level 7. For extreme conditions, this lightweight, loft-insulated level, which has the feel of down but retains its warmth when wet, is available in a jacket, vest and pants. Silicone-encapsulated fabric sheds water and is paired with Primaloft insulation for maximum warmth while the liner pulls away moisture.

For more information about the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, go to **http://www.natick.army.mil**.

Small Businesses Can Catch Big Fish

SGT Reeba Critser

You hear millions are awarded to large companies through Army contracts and wonder if the buck stops there. It doesn't. Through the Army Small Business Office, smaller companies have a means to get their products on the Army's doorstep. "This is the grand floor for a multibillion-dollar opportunity that will last for years for small businesses," said MAJ James Blanco, Assistant to the Army Small Business Office Director. "The companies will have to complete a 13-step program to be considered for a contract, but the Army Small Business Office can help them," he said.

"It's a competitive nature — working for the government, but the end result is worth it," remarked Chireda Gaither,

Wayne St. James (left) and Nancy Nagmatsu (right) demonstrate their team-building products, such as teddy bears, shirts and coins, to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Claude M. Bolton Jr. at a small business exhibition in Orlando, FL. (Photo by SGT Reeba Critser.)

Precision Task Group, Houston, TX. The company has 75 employees and mostly offers enterprise resource planning.

At a recent small business training conference, relationships between the company and the Army were strengthened. "Small businesses provide creativity and innovation of cutting-edge technology for warfighter success," Blanco explained. "They have the flexibility that big businesses don't."

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program is an example of a small business practice used by the Army. It creates jobs for blind and severely handicapped people and provides uniforms, protective gear, chemical protective gear, medical and surgical gear, cleaning products and services for the Army and other government agencies.

"We are in need of everything — Army weapon systems, parts supply, janitorial services and computer/software maintenance services," Blanco continued. "The products are limitless."

The conference exhibition featured the entire gamut of products currently available to the Army by small businesses, including weapon parts, pens, hands-free shaving kits, tea, umbrellas, satellite phones and footlockers.

"Our goal is to have 10 percent of funds earmarked for smaller business," said Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Claude M. Bolton Jr. "This year alone $50 million has been awarded, and another $150 million will be."

In FY03, the Army spent $13.6 billion on small businesses. The contracts vary with the business but are usually 1-year long with the potential for options depending on the scope of the contract or contract type. Additional time is awarded based on good service, according to the Army Small Business Office.

In addition, special resources are set aside for small businesses owned by women, minorities and veterans. "Having an Army contract not only gives our company a chance to grow, it also gives us an opportunity to support Army warfighter efforts," Gaither added.

"It's a win-win for the contractor, the Army and the Nation. And, most importantly, it's a win-win for our warfighters and their families," Blanco concluded.

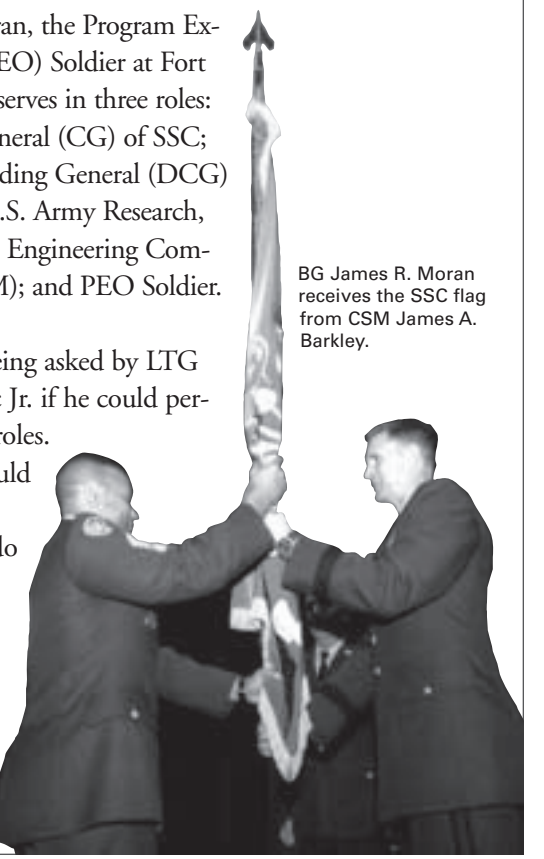
For more information on Army small business opportunities, visit **www.sellingtothearmy.info**.

SGT Reeba Critser is a public affairs noncommissioned officer with the Senior Leadership Support Team, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. She has a B.A. in mass communications from Southwest Texas State University.

Soldier Systems Center Holds Change of Command

A change of command and change of responsibility ceremony was held July 7, 2004, at Soldier Systems Center's (SSC's) Hunter Auditorium in Natick, MA.

BG James R. Moran, the Program Executive Officer (PEO) Soldier at Fort Belvoir, VA, now serves in three roles: Commanding General (CG) of SSC; Deputy Commanding General (DCG) for Operations, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM); and PEO Soldier.



BG James R. Moran receives the SSC flag from CSM James A. Barkley.

Moran recalled being asked by LTG Joseph L. Yakovac Jr. if he could perform each of the roles. Moran said he could do each one, and then was told to do them at the same time. "It's an honor to be here today," Moran told the workforce and guests in attendance.

"I need your help to keep all these missions performing successfully. With your products, you're saving Soldiers' lives, improving their quality of life and improving their combat effectiveness. I'm proud to be part of an organization committed to helping the warfighter," he said.

MG John C. Doesburg, RDECOM CG, said Moran is up to the task that is more than enough for one person. "If you look at his past, he's proven he can do it," Doesburg said. "I couldn't have asked for a better PEO, and because of that, I'm confident in his ability as Senior Mission Commander and DCG for Operations. We're not sure how it's going to work, but he's going to get it right," he added.

Moran replaced COL David Bongi, who became the Installation Commander and Acting DCG for Operations in October 2003. Bongi has transitioned to his new position as DCG, SSC and Director for Homeland Security. For his last assignment, Bongi received the Meritorious Service Medal for what he achieved during his time in the position, according to Doesburg. The role of DCG for Operations was driven by the war on terrorism.

"This is the fourth time I've changed command, and it never gets easy," Bongi said. "You think about all the things you've accomplished and what you wanted to accomplish. You always go away thinking what you still would have liked to do."

Bongi said he's enjoyed his time at SSC so far and as a 23-year infantry veteran, appreciates the accomplishments of the workforce as a consumer of products developed there. "SSC does something for the Soldier every day, and when it comes to supporting the warfighter, SSC does that better than anyone," he concluded.

For more information about SSC, go to **http://www.natick.army.mil**.

Worth Reading

The Iraq War

John Keegan
Alfred A. Knopf, 2004, New York

Reviewed by Geoffrey French, a Counterintelligence Analyst with General Dynamics and former Logistics Specialist for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

With *Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)* more than a year old, books on many aspects of the military conflict and its political causes and ramifications are beginning to appear. The honor for the first pure military history to emerge goes to John Keegan with his simply titled *The Iraq War*. Keegan is a first-class historian, with many prestigious books to his credit already. These range from straightforward texts on topics such as World War II to his innovative take on Soldiers' experiences in famous conflicts, *The Face of Battle*.

For this reason, the expectations are high for Keegan's work. Even without much time to separate him from the events, he proves himself able to approach the topic in an objective and serious manner. His access to certain high-level sources, such as GEN Tommy Franks, former Commander, U.S. Central Command, ensures that he has enough detail on both the planning and the execution of the invasion to make the work insightful. The firsthand accounts from the embedded unit reporters also provide valuable coverage of ambushes, engagements and maneuvers.

To that extent, the history works. In others, however, it falls flat. Although there is some prestige in producing the first history, there appears to be a price. This book does not meet Keegan's past level of thorough research and polished language. First, the organization seems to suffer, with some repetition and the account of certain battles scattered throughout the three chapters that cover the fighting. Second, Keegan includes criticisms that seem to be both personal and out of place. His description of Franks, for example, includes a harsh aside about the "rigid processing of West Point" that encourages a "doctrinaire approach" and stifles free thinking. There are no footnotes to support or